encouraged both at the domestic and international levels. Brand equity of handlooms will be commercially exploited to the extent possible.

(c) Due to the absence of sectoral classification such as Mill made, powerloom, handloom etc. in the schedule of revised ITC (HS) codes adopted by the office of the Central Board of Excise and Customs w.e.f. 1.4.03, data for handloom exports could not be generated from 1.4.2003 onwards. As such, share of textile exports of handloom sector is not available from 1.4.2003 onwards. However, during 2002-03, the export of handlooms was Rs. 2633.27 crore as per information furnished by HEPC.

Cotton technology Mission

1790. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched Cotton Technology Mission for the development of the cotton industry in the country;

(b) if so, the salient feature thereof, and since when the CTM is under implementation;

(c) whether any achievements were made as a result of implementation of CTM;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any complaints were received with regard to the implementation of Mission; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Technology Mission on Cotton (TMC) was launched by the Government of India on 21st February, 2000 with the aim of addressing issues relating to the increase in productivity, improvement of quality and reduction in the cost of production and thus providing the much-needed competitive advantage ofthe textile industry along with ensuring attractive returns to the farmers. The Mission comprises four Mini Missions (MM), which are jointly being implemented by the Ministries of Agriculture and Textiles, Research and Development on Cotton

and Dissemination of technology to farmers are being undertaken by the Ministry of Agriculture through MM-I (Research and Development) and MM-II (Transfer of Technology) respectively. The Ministry of Textiles is implementing MM-III (Development of in marketing yards) and MM-IV (Modernisation of Ginning and Pressing factories) through the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI), Mumbai which has established a separate cell for efficient working of TMC.

(c) and (d) benefits being achieved under Mini Mission-IIII

- Ø Against the target of 250 market yards, 219 market yards have already been approved. The estimated project cost of these market yards is Rs. 419.54 crore with Government of India share of Rs. 218.33 crore. An amount of Rs. 94.64 crore has already been released to various APMCs.
- Ø It is estimated that by the end of Xth Plan (31/03/2007) the approval to a total of 225 APMCs may be accorded thus achieving a target to the level of 90%.
- Ø By providing the required civil infrastructure in markets, the sources of contamination are being effectively plugged. Setting up of grading laboratory enables the farmer to get a price commensurate with cotton quality. FICs provide information for better crop management and price realization by which the profitability of cotton cultivation has improved. With the anticipated completion of all the 250 market development projects about 90% Indian cotton would be transacted in clean environments.

Benefits being achieved under Mini Mission-IV

- Ø Against the target of 1000 G and P Units, 853 projects have already been approved. The estimated project cost for modernization of 853 factories is Rs. 1157.33 crore with a Government of India share of Rs. 194.50 crore. An amount of Rs. 87.54 crore has already been released to various factories that have been modernized.
- Ø It is estimated that more then 900 G and P units are expected to be approved by the end of Xth Five-year plan i.e. 31/03/2007 thus achieving a target realization of 90%.
- Ø Trash levels in Indian cotton in the past was in the range of 4%-7%

TMC has set the following trash limits for cotton processed in modernized ginneries;

Staple Class	Trash Limit (%)
Extra long	2.0
Long and Superior Medium	3.0
Medium and Short	3.5
Closed boll types	6.0

As a result of modernization of G and P factories in the country, quality of cotton has tremendously improved. There are G and P units which produce cotton with least contamination (trash content upto 1%). The modernized G and P factories are getting premium price of Rs. 200 to Rs. 1000 per candy and have good reputation, easy marketing of bales and faster turnover. They have better clientele, quick payments, higher production speed and no hassles of managing labourers, etc.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise in view view of above.

Package for Weavers of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh

1791. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that at least 500 poor weavers in the textile belt in Tamil Nadu sold their kidneys to repay loans and meet other financial commitments, as reported recently;

(b) if so, whether Government would announce suitable package for the weavers of Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government would formulate a suitable textile policy, in consultation with concerned States and Self Help Groups; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) No such incident has taken place in the State of Tamil Nadu.